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# ‘Ways of Seeing’ Using Filmmaking to engage students with communities



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sB0wzEh4TWY>

# Context for the project



- ❧ Growing discourse about use and abuse of welfare and pathologising of individuals / groups
- ❧ Policy context – towards community engagement
- ❧ ‘Authoritative gaze’ and ‘heroic narratives’ (Foucault)
- ❧ Learning critical theories and counter discourses which actively engage students with co-production



# Community Project - aims



- ❧ concepts of 'community' and theoretical contexts for practice
- ❧ Partnership and participation through examination of social policy and the institutions and structures that support service users and carers at a local level.
- ❧ direct skills through active enquiry, synthesis and evaluation of information about the socio-economic and political realities in their local community including direct contact with the public and organisations providing support.
- ❧ different disciplines contributing to knowledge and analysis of structures in their own communities with a clear focus on its strengths and potential for active community engagement.
- ❧ To encourage students to be creative in their approach to communication by using arts based methods to communicate an issue important to social work.



# Module structure



- ❧ 8 one day university based workshops focused on relevant key concepts, theories and research using short interactive lectures, structured debates and small group-work.
- ❧ self-directed community based learning - active in information gathering, practice based inquiry and assessment and evaluation of policy and demographic issues in their own local community.
- ❧ 10 days of self-directed learning in their own community through volunteering, observation, interviewing and issue based inquiry..

# Community based learning

- ❧ Web based inquiry - demographic information about the community population including needs assessment from the health and local authorities, local strategic plans which demonstrate how resources are allocated and targeted, reviewing and evaluating sources of information available to the public and their effectiveness.
- ❧ - Choosing a particular user group/ issue and investigating how the community has responded to their needs and wellbeing by making direct contact with relevant services, interviewing relevant staff and members of the public.
- ❧ - Identifying a local campaign and analysing the issues and evidence in relation to the policy and theoretical frameworks available to make an evaluation of the methods used and effectiveness in achieving its aims.
- ❧ - Making contact with, arranging and conducting an interview with another professional other than social work, about their role and experiences of working in the community relating to national policy objectives.
- ❧ - Observation of a Local Authority public meeting
- ❧ - Engaging in 'helping' activities by getting involved in one of the students community based local organisations and offering up to 5 days of volunteering.
- ❧ Film making as a basis for enquiry and group work



# Film making – the team





# Generating Themes



# Team work and decision making





# Editing and refining







# Evaluation



- ❧ Online pre and post survey on use of social media skills
- ❧ Peer and tutor feedback at the Oscars
- ❧ Focus group – project team and students
- ❧ Documentary analysis of students written reflections

# Social media skills

## (n=38)

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Pre

(68% between 30-49 yrs)

- ❧ 10% social media literate with 60% partially literate
- ❧ 20% considered themselves to be creative
- ❧ 45% disagreed with “I would rather do an essay”
- ❧ 56% said that they were worried about using technology
- ❧ “excited, intrigued and clueless”





# Post

67% confidence improved  
in using social media



“There is more to what you see you in a picture if you look into the big picture, it tells many different stories from different angles”

“I was able to get involved and have deeper understanding of what is happening and to know the reasons behind”

69% agreed that looking back the project use of technology was exciting

# Interim findings (qualitative) n = 44

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- ❧ Building team skills - interdependency
- ❧ Breadth and depth of topics and areas covered
- ❧ Transformational - Deep learning – connecting with user perspectives at different levels
- ❧ Ethical issues and professional identity
- ❧ Developing perspectives on institutions – a different gaze and communicative action
- ❧ Identifying and building on community leadership and natural networks

# Where to next?



- ❧ Building sustainability
- ❧ Utilising skills in future modules/practice
- ❧ Flipping the classroom
- ❧ The role of social media within service improvement





# Reflections from the team

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⌘ <http://www.play.mdx.ac.uk/videos/15zi8>

⌘ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sB0wzEh4TWY>